



# Reading First *Lighthouse School*

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## Capitol Elementary School Phoenix Elementary District (PESD)

### **Leadership:**

Mr. Russel Sanders, Capitol Principal, leads this school in analyzing assessment data to design and monitor instruction. He is knowledgeable about assessment and uses DIBELS Data, district assessments and AIMS DPA to set target goals for staff in conjunction with his Reading Leadership Team. Mr. Sanders meets regularly with RF Coach and the Grade 4-8 Literacy Coach to discuss Trend Data, teacher needs and action plans for the week. He and the RF Coach have formed a unique instructional partnership of support and goal-setting. Mr. Sanders visits K-8 classrooms regularly for walkthroughs and has developed a feedback form in duplicate. He keeps one in his Principal Log and provides a copy to the teacher. After doing walkthroughs, RF Coach and Principal meet to decide where support is needed or kudos given to a grade level team. He also attends grade level team meetings regularly. Recently when grade level teachers were concerned about increasing Benchmark goals, Mr. Sanders backed up the RF Coach with Safety Net Tables to show why the ORF Benchmark Goals were higher than in previous years. He knows how to put “persistent, consistent pressure on teachers relentlessly” through feedback, coaching and monitoring change by regular observations. Mr. Sanders has visited Laird Professional Development School several times. His goal is to make Capitol a model school in his district. Recently he hosted the other three Reading First Principals to a monthly meeting at his site where all the principals did walkthroughs together with the district LEA. This was highly successful and the new principal at Heard has commented on how helpful that experience was for him.

### **Instruction:**

K-1 Teachers at Capitol work together as a team to ensure a cohesive instructional plan. Teachers plan well together. What you see in one classroom is duplicated in the next. Objectives are posted, stated and taught. Student Engagement is high in these rooms. There is one new teacher in Kdg. The RF Coach will go into each of the experienced Kdg. classrooms this next week allowing each Kdg. teacher to model a lesson for the new teacher with her own students! What a great plan. Literacy stations and small group instruction is a focus and expectation for Capitol this year.

### **Communication:**

Communication and collaboration are the norm at Capitol. A common planning time for each grade level is strictly adhered to. Principal and RF Coach are present at scheduled grade level team meetings. The Reading Leadership Team has representatives from each grade level, K-8. AS mentioned above, Principal and Reading Coaches meet once a week at regularly scheduled time.